

Miami Herald
PRESS-INTELLIGENCE, INC.
Washington, D. C.
15, February 1978

P. Messerschmidt,
Arg. Mafia
Teresa, Vincent
CASTRO, Fidel

CIA, Mob Plotted Castro's Death Deposition in Libel Case Reveals

By AL MESSERSCHMIDT
Herald Staff Writer

A mob informant whose testimony was successfully challenged during the income tax evasion trial of mobster Meyer Lansky has told attorneys in a \$100-million libel case that he overheard mob bosses plotting the CIA-ordered murder of Cuban Premier Fidel Castro.



In a 300-page deposition filed in Miami, Vincent (Fat Vinnie) Teresa (he weighs 325 pounds) said the CIA contacted mob figure John Rosselli about murdering Castro.

Rosselli is dead. Murdered last year in Miami.

"I was there when the information came in for Henry (Tameleo) and Raymond (Patriarca) and they picked Maurice (Pro) Lerner to do the work," Teresa said in the sworn deposition taken Jan. 31 in San Francisco. Patriarca is a mob boss in New England.

"This is the story that was told to Henry and Raymond to whack out Fidel Castro and the man that was picked was ... Lerner," said Teresa.

THE CONTRACT price was \$4 million.

Teresa, an admitted gambler, thief, swindler and enforcer who has testified as a federal informant at more than a dozen trials, talked about the Castro plot as a prospective witness in the \$100-million libel suit filed against Rolling Stone Magazine in U.S. District Court in Miami.

The libel suit was filed in 1976 by Resorts International, Inc., the operator of Paradise Island casino in the Bahamas, after the magazine stated that the casino is intimately associated and connected with organized crime ... and with Meyer Lansky in particular.

ticle was untrue, defamatory and libelous. The casino firm, which is planning to open a casino in Atlantic City, N. J., is seeking \$100 million in damages. The libel trial is scheduled to begin in June.

THE AUTHOR of two books — *The Mafia* and *My Life in the Mafia* — Teresa said his crime career included "stealing, robbing, fraud, swindling, hijacking, everything except dope and prostitution."

Teresa, the alleged target of a \$500,000 murder contract, appeared at Lansky's trial in a bulletproof vest, a false beard and sunglasses.

He repeated much of the tax evasion trial testimony in the libel suit deposition.

Lansky was acquitted when his wife testified that Lansky was in Boston, ill with a double hernia and a sick dog, at the time of an alleged \$35,000 gambling junket payoff in Miami.

Gambling junkets to London and Paradise Island were arranged through Patriarca, who received at least 5 per cent of Teresa's profits.

Teresa received 15 to 25 per cent of the gamblers' casino losses. Lansky and Dino Cellini, alleged partners in Travel & Resort Enterprises in Miami's DuPont Plaza Building, pocketing the remaining money for authorizing the junkets.

TERESA described a payoff delivery to Lansky and Cellini, whose brother managed the Paradise Island casino:

"How much cash did you have on you?" Teresa was asked.

"I don't know, 40 some odd thousand, I believe ... mostly hundreds ... in an envelope ... brown envelope ... good-sized envelope."

"I took the money, ripped it out of the envelope and put it on the desk ... I don't think anybody actually picked them up ... I think they just pushed them around a little bit ... I believe that Mr. Lansky put his hand out and just took the money said."

At the time of the May 1968 payoff, Lansky was recovering from an

Before the Lansky tax trial, Teresa was questioned by Robert Pelouquin of Intertel Inc., Resorts' subsidiary security firm.

PELOQUIN, who arranged the interview, in Washington, D. C. through the Justice Department, talked about a \$15,000-a-year job for Teresa with the securities firm.

TERESA WAS placed in a federal health facility in Baltimore, escaped after three days of dieting and never was offered the Intertel securities job.

"I have no idea what Mr. Lansky's got investments in. I don't think anybody knows ... I'm talking about power ... control," said Teresa. "I've never seen a piece of paper with Meyer Lansky's name on it that he owns as much as a pair of shoes ..."

Teresa said he was warned, in the basement of Joseph Paterno's New Jersey home, and Charlie (The Blade) Tourine's New York apartment, that Paradise Island was Lansky's casino ... "Meyer's Island."

Resorts International has denied any control by organized crime figures. The company was sued Tuesday by stockholder Irving Zorn in federal court in Miami.

ZORN ASKED for a court order canceling stock options offered to Resort International executives. The offer of 60,000 shares of Class A stock was at \$4 a share.

The suit claims that the options were granted in 1976, before stockholders were told that the casino firm was planning to open a casino in Atlantic City, N. J.

At Monday's closing price of \$21.75 a share, Resorts President I. G. Davis could reap a \$530,000 profit by exercising his 30,000-share option. Davis has not bought stock under the option plan which is open until 1981.

"For anyone to say we knew in February 1976 that the referendum (in Atlantic City) was certain to pass in November is ludicrous," said Gore. Resorts International, based in Miami, announced that it was purchasing a casino site in May 1976, Gore said.